

REMARKS

I Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-22 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Applicant wished to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 8 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to contain all the claim limitations of original Claim 8, including intervening claim 2. Claim 12 has been amended to be written in independent form including all the limitation of original Claim 1. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original claims. Claims 2, 4 and 8 have been canceled to avoid redundancy. New Claims 13-22 are submitted. The new claims are supported throughout the specification, for example in the original claims. No new matter has been added.

II Novelty

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fago et al. (US 6,569,127). The Examiner has indicated that original Claims 8 and 12 are novel over Fago. All of the pending claims as amended contain either all the limitations of original Claim 8 or 12, and therefore must be considered novel over Fago.

III Non-Obviousness

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2 and 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Fago in view of Thrull (US 5,947,929). Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Further, the Examiner has indicated that original Claims 8 and 12 are non-obvious over Fago and Thrull. As the pending claims contain all the limitations of either original Claim 8 or 12, they must be considered non-obvious over Fago and Thrull.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by

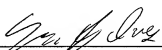
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telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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